

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 00495 182158Z

61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /153 W

----- 019228

R 182100Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8516

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L L I M A 0495

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, ENRG, PE, EC

SUBJ: PERUVIAN-ECUADOREAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) QUITO 325; (B) LIMA 370

1. AS REF A INDICATES, RECENT INCIDENT BETWEEN PERU AND ECUADOR APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED OFF BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE DELIVERED BY ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO FONMIN DE LA FLOR.

2. NOTE APPEARS TO HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN REGION WHOSE LOSS TO PERU IN WAR OF 1941 HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY ECUADOR. ACCORDING TO PETROPERU SOURCE, THE ECUADOREANS WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OF AMERADA-HESS. AMERADA CONTRACT BLOC IS IN ALTO AMAZONAS REGION OF PERU.

3. USUALLY WELL-INFORMED PERUVIAN JOURNALIST TOLD EMBOFFS THAT PRIMMIN MERCADO FURIOUS WITH FONMIN DE LA FLOR'S HANDLING OF NOTE WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN REFUSED BECAUSE IT DEALT WITH PERUVIAN TERRITORY. INSTEAD, DE LA FLOR TOOK NOTE TO CABINET MEETING
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PAGE 02 LIMA 00495 182158Z

WHERE HE WAS INSTURCTED TO RETURN IT IMMEDIATELY TO

ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR. HOWEVER, LATTER REPORTEDLY TOLD FONMIN THAT 72 HOURS HAD ELAPSED WHICH, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE, MEANT THAT NOTE COULD NOT BE RETURNED WITHOUT WRITTEN EXPLANATION. ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR ALLEGEDLY TREATENED TO HAVE QUITO PRESS PUBLISH ANY SUCH EXPLANATION. THIS PROMPTED PERUVIANS TO DESPATCH FONMIN SECRETARY GENERAL GARCIA BEDOYA TO QUITO, WHERE INCIDENT WAS APPARENTLY SETTLED.

4. COMMENT: WHILE "DIPLOMATIC NOTE INCIDENT" MAY HAVE ENDED, STICKY PROBLEMS SEEM LIKELY TO RECUR IN FUTURE AS PERU PRESSES AHEAD WITH ITS OIL EXPLORATION PROGRAM IN THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.

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